

3400 Forest Insect and Disease Management

October 28, 1980

Functional Assistance Trip - Mt. Adams Ranger District

Forest Supervisor, Gifford Pinchot NF

On October 15, Gregory Filip, Pathologist, Forest Pest Management Staff, Portland, visited the Mt. Adams Ranger District, Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Purpose of the visit was to examine two proposed sale areas suspected of having laminated root rot caused by *Phellinus weirii*. He was accompanied by Jim Stewart and Jim White from the District.

The first area they visited was the proposed Croft Sale of approximately 80 acres. Several "holes" in the forest, as seen on aerial photographs, were examined in the field. Some of the openings appeared to be old root rot centers containing much vine maple and mostly laminated root rot resistant trees: Engelmann spruce, red cedar, white pine, and western hemlock. The surrounding stand was composed primarily of grand fir and Douglas-fir, both highly susceptible to laminated root rot. Although infected trees were not found in all openings, usually an adjacent opening did have *Phellinus weirii*-infected trees.

The second area they visited was the Smith Butte stand within the proposed Plough Sale. This area had several 1-acre openings with many trees killed by laminated root rot. Occasionally, one or two windthrown and infected trees were found between the large openings. Trees dying were either grand fir or Douglas-fir. Ponderosa pine and western larch appeared unaffected.

Recommendations for both areas are to remove as much of the grand and Douglas-fir as possible, either by clearcutting or heavy partial cutting. Retaining the firs or regenerating the area with these species will only perpetuate the disease, and damage may even increase in the next rotation. Disease-resistant species such as pine or cedar, or disease-tolerant species such as larch, spruce, or hemlock should be favored where they are adapted. These species should be planted following clearcutting, or seed trees of resistant species should be retained to insure their regeneration. Some natural regeneration by fir will occur at unit margins; however, if units are large enough, this should be minimal. The key is to discriminate against grand and Douglas-firs as much as possible.